



FACULTY OF ARTS

## DISABILITY STUDIES

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**Disability Studies is an interdisciplinary program focused on the critical analysis of disability in society which includes the study of disability as a social, scientific, cultural, historical, and political construction.**

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Disability Studies will challenge you to think about “disability” and “ability” in a new way. Using a social model lens, the problem becomes a lack of ramps rather than the fact that someone uses a wheelchair. In this program students will begin from an examination and critique of the bio-medical model of disability.

Topics to be considered include human rights, ethics and accountability, adaptive physical activity, sport and recreation, social movements, normalcy, eugenics, genetic engineering, family, sexuality, employment, socialization and development, aging, education, adaptive and universal design, and gender issues.

This is a joint program with Red River College and leads to a **Bachelor of Arts degree (3-year, 4-year, or Honours) with a Disability and Community Support Diploma from Red River College.** Students taking an undergraduate degree in another Major may choose to add a Minor in Disability Studies as a secondary area of interest.

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### SAMPLE CAREERS

Opportunities are available in a wide variety of areas, such as teaching, research, policy analysis in various levels of government, the non-profit sector, the health care sector, the tourism sector, etc.

### SAMPLE COURSES

**Introduction to Disability Studies I** This course addresses definitions of and approaches to disability, and the differences as a result of history and cultures. In addition, the course examines the ways in which disability is constructed in societies - including the media, workplaces, service provision, families, and environmental barriers. This course is designed to be of particular interest to people with disabilities, people with interest in providing disability services, educators, caregivers, therapists, and all people with an interest in disability issues.

**Theorizing Disability** Prior to the 1970s, the concept of disability was centred on individual impairments and people with disabilities were “othered” because of their difference from ableist norms. Over the last three decades, disability activists and theorists have sought to shift the focus from a medical model to a social model. Within the social model, external obstacles are regarded as disabling, rather than non-conformist bodies. This move has had a powerful impact on a disability theorization and political action. The social model of disability has much in common with critical analyses that deconstruct and denaturalize race

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and gender. In this course, we will consider the implications of the social model of theorizing disability, examine the critiques, and explore the alternatives.

**Disabilities, Sexualities, and Rights** Links between living and disabilities and risk of disadvantage or discrimination are clear, yet focus on equality, employment access, services, and physical health needs may render invisible or subjugate issues of sexual health, identity, and expression of people with disabilities. Taught from critical disability, feminist, and queer perspectives, this course embraces social models and explores human rights implications of challenging bio-medical views of sexualities and disabilities, focusing on how people with disabilities themselves embrace their sexualities and/or are prevented from doing so. Recognising and balancing complex and sometimes apparently competing self-identities and needs is integral from a human rights perspective.

## **MORE SAMPLE COURSES**

- Embodied Subjects
- Disability Studies Seminar

## **SAMPLE FIRST YEAR (AT UWINNIPEG)**

**DIS-1003(3) Introduction to Disability Studies I**

**DIS-1004(3) Introduction to Disability Studies II**

**RHET-1102(3) Academic Writing: Social Sciences or other section (if required)**

**6 credit hours Humanities**

**15-18 credit hours Electives**

***NOTE:** This sample first year is representative of the courses you may take. For many of our programs, you may choose another set of courses and still be well on your way to a degree. Also, for most programs you do not have to take 30 credit hours (five full courses) in your first year.*

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***“The content covered in lectures and readings was thought-provoking, the discussions in class were dynamic and engaging, and the professors were incredibly knowledgeable and supportive. I recommend the Disability Studies program to anyone interested in human rights discourse and making society a more inclusive place.”***

- Evan Wicklund (BA Disability Studies)  
Senior Research Officer at Canadian Centre on Disability Studies (Eviance)

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## **REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES**

You must meet The University of Winnipeg’s general admission requirements. No specific courses required.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

For details on application requirements and deadlines, and to apply online, please visit: [uwinnipeg.ca/apply](http://uwinnipeg.ca/apply). You may also enter the DS program through the Disability and Community Support Program at Red River College.

For more information contact a student recruitment officer at [welcome@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:welcome@uwinnipeg.ca) or 204.786.9844. In any case where the University’s

Academic Calendar and this fact sheet differ, the current Calendar takes precedence.

## **CONTACT US**

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